

REMARKS

Applicants have amended claim 21 to define the present invention with more specificity. Support for this amendment is found in the Specification and claim 26. Accordingly, claims 24-26 are cancelled. Applicants have also amended claim 30 to more clearly define the present invention as a process that comprises at least one non-immersive step. Applicants have further amended claims 29, 32, 33 and 35.

No new matter has been added by this amendment. Upon entry of this amendment, Claims 21-23 and 27-38 are pending. No additional claim fee is due.

Rejection under 35 USC 112, second paragraph

Claims 24, 29, 32 and 33 are rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph as being indefinite for failing to point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Specifically, the Examiner considers the phrases "less than about", "more than about" and "at least about" indefinite. The Examiner also rejected claim 35 for the incomplete phrase "no purposively added".

Claim 24 is cancelled; therefore the rejection is moot. Claims 29, 32, 33 and 35 have been amended. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

Rejection under 35 USC 102 over Kasprzak

Claims 21-25, 28-35 and 38 are rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by US 4,685,930 to Kasprzak (hereinafter "Kasprzak"). The Examiner asserts that Kasprzak discloses a method for cleaning textiles with a cleaning composition comprising contacting textiles with a cyclic siloxane and the cleaning composition is applied in a conventional laundry process (referring to Col. 5, lines 27-34). The Examiner also relies on Example 10(b), alleging that it discloses a method for cleaning textile in a home laundry machine with a composition comprising 100% by weight of decamethylcyclopentasiloxane. Therefore, the Examiner concludes that Kasprzak anticipates the present invention.

Applicants respectfully traverse.

Applicants respectfully point out that Kasprzak discloses a method of applying a cleaning composition containing cyclic siloxane in a pre-treating composition, which is applied to a soiled area by spraying, pouring, or from a cloth or sponge applicator; the soil-solvent combination is "then removed from the textile . . . followed by vacuuming or a conventional home laundry operation." (emphasis added) (Col. 2, lines 64-67 and Col. 3, lines 4-13). Specifically, Example 10 illustrates "the use of cyclic dimethyl polysiloxanes as a solvent component in the pre-wash spotting formulation . . . " and TABLE 10 illustrates the results from "stain removal by prewash spotting" (emphasis added) (Col. 5, lines 16-18 and 55). More specifically, the cyclic siloxanes are "sufficiently volatile that any residual

cyclic siloxane on the textile, after removal of soil, readily volatilizes to leave the treated area dry as well as clean." (emphasis added) (Col. 5, lines 34-38).

Applicants submit that (1) Kasprzak applies the cyclic siloxane to the fabric in the pre-treating step, not in an automatic washing machine; and (2) the cyclic siloxane used in Kasprzak's pretreating formulation readily volatilizes and leaves the fabric, therefore, it is not a wash medium in an automatic washing machine. Therefore, Kasprzak does not anticipate the presently claimed invention.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

Rejection under 35 USC 102 over US 5,942,007 to Berndt et al.

Claims 21-38 are rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. 5,942,007 to Berndt et al. (hereinafter "Berndt '007 patent"). The Examiner asserts that Berndt '007 patent discloses a dry cleaning method comprising contacting a garment in a vertical combination washer/dryer with a composition comprising 80 wt% of octamethylcyclotetrasiloxane and 20 wt% of decamethylcyclopentasiloxane. Therefore, the Examiner concludes that Berndt '007 patent anticipates the present invention.

Applicants respectfully traverse.

Applicants submit that the present claims are not anticipated by Berndt '007 patent because Berndt '007 patent does not disclose a home laundry process or a home laundry process using a wash medium comprising siloxane and from about 0.1% to about 50% purposively added water. Applicants further submit that Berndt '007 patent does not disclose a method comprising a non-immersive cleaning step in an automatic washing machine. Therefore, Berndt '007 patent does not anticipate the present claims.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

Rejection under 35 USC 102 over US 6,063,135 to Berndt et al.

Claims 21-25, 28-35 and 38 are rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. 6,063,135 to Berndt et al. (hereinafter "Berndt '135 patent"). The Examiner asserts that Berndt '135 patent discloses a dry cleaning method comprising contacting a garment in a vertical combination washer/dryer with a composition comprising 30 wt% 2-ethyl hexyl acetate and 70wt% decamethylcyclopentasiloxane. Therefore, the Examiner concludes that Berndt '135 patent anticipates the present invention.

Applicants respectfully traverse.

Applicants submit that the present claims are not anticipated by Berndt '135 patent because Berndt '135 patent does not disclose a home laundry process or a home laundry process using a wash medium comprising siloxane and from about 0.1% to about 50% purposively added water. Applicants further submit that Berndt '135 patent does not disclose a method comprising a non-immersive cleaning step in an automatic washing machine. Therefore, Berndt '135 patent does not anticipate the present claims.

step in an automatic washing machine. Therefore, Berndt '135 patent does not anticipate the present claims.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

Rejection under 35 USC 102 over US 5,057,240 to Madore et al.

Claims 21-25, 30-32 and 34-38 are rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. 5,057,240 to Madore et al. (hereinafter "Madore"). The Examiner asserts that Madore discloses a liquid laundry detergent comprising a fabric softening agent, a volatile silicone, and a detergent which may or may not contain water. The Examiner also relies on Example III, alleging that it discloses a process for treating fabrics in a home laundry process comprising a step of contacting the fabric with "a composition comprising a liquid detergent and a cyclic siloxane". Therefore, the Examiner concludes that Madore anticipates the present invention.

Applicants respectfully traverse.

Applicants respectfully point out that Madore teaches a liquid detergent comprising at least one fabric softening agent, which can be a silicone fabric softening agent; a carrier, which can be water; and surfactants (Col. 2, lines 45-48; and Col. 2, line 66 to Col. 3, line 2). Applicants further point out that, in Example III, Madore discloses that about 50 grams of this liquid detergent can be added to an aqueous based washing machine, which provides a water wash and a water rinse.

Applicants submit that Madore does not disclose a non-aqueous based laundry process using a wash medium comprising siloxane and from about 0.1% to about 50% purposively added water. Applicants further submit that Madore does not disclose a method comprising a non-immersive cleaning step in an automatic washing machine. Therefore, Berndt '135 patent does not anticipate the present claims.

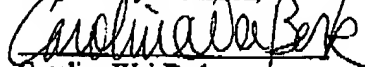
Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

Applicants have made an earnest effort to place the present claims in condition for allowance. WHEREFORE, entry of the amendments provided herewith, reconsideration of the claims as amended in light of the Remarks provided, withdrawal of the claims rejections, and allowance of Claims 21-23 and 27-38 are respectfully requested.

In the event that issues remain prior to allowance of the noted claims, the Examiner is invited to call Applicants' undersigned attorney to discuss any remaining issues.

Respectfully submitted,



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